



NEWS RELEASE

Travis County **STAR Flight**

7800 Old Manor Road, Austin TX 78724

May 7, 2014

STAR Flight receives American Heart Association award

The American Heart Association awarded **STAR Flight** with the “Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Award,” which recognizes **STAR Flight**’s life-saving success in implementing specific quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who suffer a severe heart attack known as a ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI).

Every year, almost 300,000 people experience a STEMI, a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart. To prevent death, it is critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication.

Using the correct tools, training and processes, **STAR Flight** rapidly identifies patients suffering STEMI heart attacks, administers the appropriate treatment and notifies the receiving medical center to trigger an early response from awaiting hospital personnel. **STAR Flight** works closely with local and regional EMS and hospital personnel in the recognition, treatment and transport of STEMI patients to STEMI centers.

EMS agencies, such as **STAR Flight**, that are recognized by “Mission: Lifeline” follow protocols derived from American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology guidelines, and provide education in STEMI identification and access to 12-lead ECG machines. Agencies that receive this award have demonstrated at least 75 percent compliance for each required achievement measure for the entire year, and treat at least eight STEMI patients during the year.

“We commend **STAR Flight** for this achievement award,” said A. Gray Ellrodt, MD, Chair of the “Mission: Lifeline” committee and Chief of Medicine at the Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Mass. “All too many heart attack patients in the U.S. still fail to receive appropriate treatment for their life-threatening condition within the recommended timeframes.”

The American Heart Association’s “Mission: Lifeline” seeks to save lives by closing the gaps that keep STEMI patients from timely access to appropriate treatments. “Mission: Lifeline” recognizes emergency responders for their efforts in improving STEMI systems of care and improving the quality of life for these patients. For more information, please visit heart.org/missionlifeline and heart.org/quality.

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Submitted by: Travis County Emergency Services PIO Lisa Block, Tel: 512-854-7954